Child labour working under inhuman conditions

1434. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approximately 5 per cent of the Indian children are a part of the labour force working under inhuman conditions for a fraction of the wages paid to adults;

(b) whether it is also a fact that legislation passed has not proved effective to check this malady; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in this behalf?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) According to 1981 census of India (excluding Assam), the working children comprise 5.17 per cent of the total number of children in the age group of 0-14 years. Government is aware that a large number of children work in difficult circumstances in various employments due to socio-economic compulsions. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in certain specified occupations and processes. It also seeks to regulate their conditions of work in employments in which they are non-prohibited from work. There are provisions in several other labour laws such as Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, the Beedi and Cigar workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Shops and Commerical Establishments Act of the States/Union Territories etc., which either prohibit or regulate the employment of children in specific areas. Government have also formulated the national policy on child labour, 1987 which provides for a number of welfare measures to minimise the exploitation of working children. Under the NCI Policy project based plan of action has been launched in 9 areas of high concentration of child labour. Financial assistance is also provided to voluntary agencies for taking up action-oriented projects for the benefit of child labour.

Enforcement of child labour legislation is principally the responsibility of the State Governments/administrations of Union Territories. They have been addressed from time to time to ensure strict enforcement of the laws. With a view of further strengthen the enforcement Machinery, 50 per cent financial assistance is given to State Governments under a centrally sponsored plan scheme.

Labour participation in managements

1435. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to statae:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the public sector companies are not implementing the declared Government policy on labour participation in management;

(b) whether Government have taken any action against all the companies who are defying the above declared policy;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the British India Corporation Limited, a Government Company, during the past one month has inducted several newcomers on the Boards of its subsidiary Companies like Elgin Mills and Cawnpore Textile who have neither any textile industry background nor do they belong to trade unions; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) A scheme on employees' participation in management was notified by the Central Government on 30th December, 1983. It is applicable to all Central Public Sector Undertakings except those which are specifically exempted. While a majority of the Central Public Sector undertakings have introduced workers' participation in management at the shop floor and the enterprise level, some of them have not been able to implement the scheme on account of certain difficulties. The scheme being non-statutory, the

question of taking any penal action against them, does not arise.

(c) and (d) Eight persons are reported to have been appointed as Directors on the Boards of subsidiary Companies of the British India Corporation Ltd. in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. Of these three have been appointed in Elgin Mills Company Ltd., four in Cawnpore Textile Mills and one in Brushware Company Ltd. during the period from 30th October, 1991 to 2nd December, 1991. All these persons have experience of public life and are of social repute. Some of them have experience of workers' trade unions and some of them are textile engineers.

International Labour Organisation on high accident rates in Asian region

1436. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that International Labour Organisation has identified that the accident rates in construction, mining, transport, agriculture and foresting is still high in Asian region; and

(b) if so, what preventive steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) A number of statutes on occupational safety and health have been enacted and are amended from time to time with a view to ensuring the health and safety of workers in different branches of economic activity such as factories, mines, transport and agriculture. These Acts are the Factories Act, 1948 the Mines Act, 1952; the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, the Dangerous Machinery (Regulation) Act, 1983, the Insecticides Act, 1968 etc. The Government is also considering a central legislation on building and construction workers which would contain provisions for health and safety of workers engaged in this sector.

Agricultural Labour in the Country

1437. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agriculture labourers working in the country alongwith their income, statewise; and

(b) the number of non-agriculture labourers in the country alongwith their per capita income, statewise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) Number of total working force and Agricultural Labourers as per 1981 Census are given in Table I. *(See below)*.

Average Wage/Salary Erarnings by adult male and female labourers in Agricultural, and Non-Agricultural occupations in 1987-88 is given in Table II and III respectively.

TABLE-I

Working Force and Number of Agricultural Labourers by States/Union Territories as per **1981** *Census,*

All India States/U.Ts,	Working Force (Main Workers)	Agricul tural Workers	Agricul tural Labourers
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	22·63	15·73	8·33
Assam	..	..	..
Bihar	20·75	16·41	7·37